

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle, comprising:

a bumper reinforcement fixed to a rear end of a vehicle body so as to define its fixed position with respect to the vehicle body and extend in a width direction of the vehicle; and

a bumper opening-and-closing portion arranged to be movable in a substantially vertical direction of the vehicle so as to selectively open or close a lower part of a rear opening of a load compartment formed at a rear portion of the vehicle body, constituting at least part of a rear bumper of the vehicle,

wherein said bumper opening-and-closing portion includes a main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion which is located in front of said bumper reinforcement in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle, a bumper facer which is attached to said main body to cover said bumper reinforcement from a rear side of the vehicle, and a moving mechanism which moves said main body in the substantially vertical direction of the vehicle and between the vehicle body and said bumper reinforcement such that said bumper reinforcement is always located between said main body and said bumper facer.

2. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion is made of metal, and said bumper reinforcement is made of resin.

3. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein said moving mechanism of the bumper opening-and-closing portion includes a supporting member connected to said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion.

4. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein there is provided at the vehicle body a seal which is located so as to contact said main body when said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion is in its closed position.

5. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein there is provided at said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion an engagement member for

engaging the vehicle body to retain said main body in its closed position when said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion is in its closed position.

6. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein there is provided at the vehicle body a lift gate for selectively opening or closing an upper part of the rear opening of the load compartment, and there is provided at said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion a seal which is located so as to contact said lift gate when said bumper opening-and-closing portion is in its closed position.

7. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 1, wherein there is provided at the vehicle body a lift gate for selectively open or close an upper part of the rear opening of the load compartment, and there is provided at said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion an engagement member for engaging said lift gate when said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion is in its closed position.

8. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle of claim 3, wherein said supporting member is pivotally connected about a specified axis at the vehicle body, and the specified axis is located at a substantially middle position of said bumper facer in the vertical direction of the vehicle.

9. A rear bumper structure for a vehicle including a rear opening of a load compartment formed at a rear portion of a vehicle body and a lift gate for selectively opening or closing an upper part of the rear opening of the load compartment, comprising:

a bumper reinforcement fixed to a rear end of a vehicle body so as to define its fixed position with respect to the vehicle body and extend in a width direction of the vehicle; and

a bumper opening-and-closing portion arranged to be movable in a substantially vertical direction of the vehicle so as to selectively open or close a lower part of the rear opening of the load compartment, constituting at least part of a rear bumper of the vehicle,

wherein said bumper opening-and-closing portion includes a main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion which is located in front of said bumper

reinforcement in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle, a bumper facer which is attached to said main body to cover said bumper reinforcement from a rear side of the vehicle, and a moving mechanism which moves said main body in the substantially vertical direction of the vehicle and between the vehicle body and said bumper reinforcement such that said bumper reinforcement is always located between said main body and said bumper facer,

wherein said moving mechanism of the bumper opening-and-closing portion includes a supporting member connected to said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion, and there is provided at said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion an engagement member for respectively engaging the vehicle body and said lift gate when said main body of bumper opening-and-closing portion is in its closed position.